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10/31/00

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.

First Inventor

Sherman

Title

Method and System For Purging Content
From a Content Delivery Network

Express Mail Label No.

EL67618436245

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

- ☒ Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
- ☐ Applicant claims small entity status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.
- ☒ Specification [Total Pages 42]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
 - Descriptive title of the invention
 - Cross Reference to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the Invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
- ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 6]
- Oath or Declaration [Total Pages]
 - ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63 (d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 17 completed)
 - ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s)
named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b)
- ☐ Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

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ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

- ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
- ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) ☐ Power of Attorney
- ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
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17. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP)

of prior application No.

Prior application information

Examiner

Group / Art Unit

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

18. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

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(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)

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**FEE TRANSMITTAL
for FY 2001**

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

Complete if Known

Application Number

Filing Date

First Named Inventor

Sherman

Examiner Name

Group Art Unit

Attorney Docket No.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT

(\$) 790

Jc931 U.S. PTO
09/702521
10/31/00**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

- 1.
- ☒
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to

Deposit
Account
Number

501,269

Deposit
Account
Name☐ Charge Any Additional Fee Required
Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17☐ Applicant claims small entity status
See 37 CFR 1.27

- 2.
- ☐
- Payment Enclosed:

☐ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money
Order ☐ Other**FEE CALCULATION****1. BASIC FILING FEE**

Large Entity Small Entity

Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101 710	201 355	Utility filing fee	710
106 320	206 160	Design filing fee	
107 490	207 245	Plant filing fee	
108 710	208 355	Reissue filing fee	
114 150	214 75	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$) 710

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
12	-20** =		
4	-3** =	80	80
Multiple Dependent			

Large Entity Small Entity

Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description
103 18	203 9	Claims in excess of 20
102 80	202 40	Independent claims in excess of 3
104 270	204 135	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
109 80	209 40	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
110 18	210 9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$) 790

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)**3. ADDITIONAL FEES**

Large Entity Small Entity

Fee Code (\$)	Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105 130	205 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127 50	227 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139 130	139 130	Non-English specification	
147 2,520	147 2,520	For filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
112 920*	112 920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113 1,840*	113 1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115 110	215 55	Extension for reply within first month	
116 390	216 195	Extension for reply within second month	
117 890	217 445	Extension for reply within third month	
118 1,390	218 695	Extension for reply within fourth month	
128 1,890	228 945	Extension for reply within fifth month	
119 310	219 155	Notice of Appeal	
120 310	220 155	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121 270	221 135	Request for oral hearing	
138 1,510	138 1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140 110	240 55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141 1,240	241 620	Petition to revive - unintentional	
142 1,240	242 620	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143 440	243 220	Design issue fee	
144 600	244 300	Plant issue fee	
122 130	122 130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123 50	123 50	Petitions related to provisional applications	
126 240	126 240	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581 40	581 40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
146 710	246 355	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
149 710	249 355	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
179 710	279 355	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
169 900	169 900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify) _____

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$)

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**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PURGING CONTENT
FROM A CONTENT DELIVERY NETWORK**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 Technical Field

The present invention relates generally to high-performance, fault-tolerant web content delivery.

Description of the Related Art

It is known in the prior art to distribute media-rich
10 web objects away from busy home sites to a network of
content servers located across multiple major Internet
backbone networks. One such service (CDS) is known as
FreeFlowSM content delivery, which is available from Akamai
Technologies, Inc. of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Akamai
15 operates a global content delivery network (CDN) comprising
a large number of distributed content servers, network
mapping servers, and associated mechanisms to track
reporting and administration of its content delivery
service. The Akamai content servers are typically located
20 at edge-of-network access points such as Internet Points-
of-Presence (POPs).

In operation of the FreeFlow content delivery service,
a software tool is used to tag embedded web page objects,
such as graphics and images, for delivery via the CDN.
25 Typically, the objects are tagged by transforming web page

Uniform Resource Locators (URLs) that identify those objects. The objects identified by the modified URLs are then hosted on the CDN content servers. In one typical user interaction with a web site enabled by FreeFlow, the user's browser sends a request for a web page to the site. In response, the web site returns the page markup language (e.g., HTML) code as usual, except that the embedded object URLs have been modified to point to the content delivery network. As a result, the browser next requests and tries to obtain the media-rich embedded objects from an optimally-located CDN server, instead of from the content provider's site. The above-described web content delivery service provides significant advantages, namely, faster downloads for end-users, reduced load on the home site, flash crowd protection, easier web site management and infrastructure scaling, and the ability to distribute media-rich objects effectively. Further details of the Akamai CDN and service are described in U.S. Patent No. 6,108,703, which is incorporated herein by reference.

CDN customers (namely, content providers) may want to purge objects from the CDN from time-to-time. This need may arise, for example, because the customer has published the wrong object and needs to remove it before the object's normal time-to-live (TTL) expires. Another reason a

customer may desire to purge an object is because an error occurred during the tagging of the object, e.g., an object is given a 1-day TTL instead of a 30 minute TTL. Other reasons purging may be required are unauthorized publishing of an object, publishing an object with the wrong object name, or the like. CDN system administrators may also have a need to purge given content. In addition, where CDN servers are used to provide dynamic content assembly on behalf of the content provider, it is desired to maintain the content provider's publishing and content management environment, and such environment may include the ability to remove particular content.

To this end, it would be desirable to provide a mechanism to enable the CDN content provider customer and/or the CDN administrator the ability to selectively remove content from the CDN. The present invention addresses this need.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A CDN purge mechanism preferably includes a number of components. A Web-enabled portal preferably is used by customers to enter purge requests securely. A particular
5 purge request typically identifies a set of one or more content files to be purged from the content delivery network. The purge request is pushed over a secure link from the portal to a purge server, which validates purge requests from multiple CDN customers and batches the
10 requests into an aggregate purge request. The aggregate purge request is pushed over a secure link from the purge server to a set of staging servers throughout the content delivery network. Periodically, CDN content servers poll the staging servers to determine whether an aggregate purge
15 request exists. If so, the CDN content servers pull (or otherwise obtain) the aggregate purge request over a secure link and process the request to remove the identified content files from their local storage. Throughout the purge process, notifications are sent when purges are
20 accepted, rejected, and upon completion.

As is well known, given content servers in the content delivery network may share content, e.g., through use of the InterCache Protocol (ICP). According to another technical advantage of the invention, each control server

includes an appropriate control routine to prevent exchange of stale data (i.e., to ensure consistency) between the content server and other content servers that are sharing content in this manner. This functionality preferably uses
5 purge sequence numbers to enable content servers to synchronize their purge states so that stale content is not exchanged between servers.

According to yet another technical advantage, a given content server may leverage the content delivery network
10 itself to obtain purge request files from a given staging server. The given content server may then share the purge request files with one or more other content servers (e.g., in a region of content servers) using ICP or some other communication protocol. This reduces the load on a given
15 staging server.

The foregoing has outlined some of the more pertinent features of the present invention. These features should be construed to be merely illustrative. Many other beneficial results can be attained by applying the
20 disclosed invention in a different manner or by modifying the invention as will be described. Accordingly, other features and a fuller understanding of the invention may be had by referring to the following Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a block diagram of a known content delivery service in which the present invention may be implemented;

Figure 2 is a simplified diagram illustrating how the content delivery service operates to serve given content such as graphics and images from a set of CDN content servers preferably located at network access points;

Figure 3 is a simplified diagram illustrating a purge mechanism architecture according to the present invention;

Figure 4 is a flowchart of a preferred purge process according to the present invention;

Figure 5 is a representative purge tool user interface that may be used by a content provider customer or CDN administrator to identify a given object to be purged from the CDN;

Figure 6 is a representative confirmation dialog indicating that a purge request has been submitted to the mechanism; and

Figure 7 is a more detailed illustration of the various processes that comprise the purge mechanism of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Figure 1 is a diagram showing an illustrative content delivery service in which the present invention may be implemented. The invention may likewise be implemented with other known or later-designed or built content delivery services or systems. In the illustrative embodiment, the content delivery service (CDS) comprises a preferably global content delivery network (CDN) 100 of content delivery servers 102a-n, a dynamic domain name service (DNS) system 104, and a tool 106 that allows content to be tagged for inclusion on the network. Generally, the content delivery service allows the network of content delivery servers 102a-n to serve a large number of clients efficiently. Although not meant to be limiting, a typical server (such as content server 102) is a Pentium-based caching appliance running the Linux operating system with a large amount of RAM and disk storage. As also seen in Figure 1, the content delivery service may include a network operations center (NOC) 112 for monitoring the network to ensure that key processes are running, systems have not exceeded capacity, and that sets of content servers (so-called regions) are interacting properly. A content provider may also have access to a monitoring suite

114 that includes tools for both real-time and historic
analysis of customer data. One tool is a traffic analyzer
116 that provides multiple monitoring views that enable
quick access to network and customer-specific traffic
5 information. A reporter 118 allows for viewing of
historical data. A billing tool 118 may be used to
generate appropriate billing information for the content
provider, who typically pays for the service as a function
of the amount of content delivered by the CDN.

10 High-performance content delivery is provided by
directing requests for web objects (e.g., graphics, images,
streaming media, HTML and the like) to the content delivery
service network. In one known technique, known as Akamai
FreeFlow content delivery, content is first tagged for
15 delivery by the tool 106, which, for example, may be
executed by a content provider at the content provider's
web site 108. Site 108 is sometimes referred to as an
origin server. The tool 106 converts web page URLs to
modified resource locators, called ARLs for convenience.

20 Figure 2 illustrates how the origin server 208 operates
after given embedded objects in a web page have been
modified with ARLs. As illustrated, the origin server 200
preferably still serves the basic or "base" HTML page 202,
although this is not a requirement. Because the URLs of

the embedded objects within the page have been modified (e.g., into ARLs), the objects preferentially are served from the CDN content servers 204 as opposed to the origin server. CDN content servers preferably are located at network access points (e.g., Internet Points-of-Presence) so that the content is closer to requesting end users. If a given requested object is not available from a given content server, the object may be retrieved from another CDN content server or, failing that, from the origin server.

According to the present invention, the above-described content delivery network is enhanced to enable the content provider customers and CDN administrators the ability to evict or "purge" content from all or some of the CDN content servers efficiently and reliably. There may be many reasons why it becomes necessary to remove such content. Thus, for example, the customer may have published the wrong object and needs to remove it before the object's normal time-to-live (TTL) expires. Another reason a customer may desire to purge an object is because an error occurred during the tagging of the object, e.g., an object is given a 1-day TTL instead of a 30 minute TTL. Other reasons purging may be required are unauthorized publishing of an object, publishing an object with the

wrong object name, or the like. In addition, where CDN servers are used to provide dynamic content assembly on behalf of the content provider, it is desirable to maintain the content provider's publishing and content management environment, which may include the ability to remove given content from the page.

Figure 3 illustrates a representative purge mechanism at a high level. In the illustrative embodiment, the purge mechanism comprises three (3) main subsystems or components: a purge server 300, a set of staging servers 302, and the CDN content servers 304. The purge server 300 preferably originates all purge requests on the CDN. In the illustrated example, the purge server 300 receives purge requests from authorized CDN customers who enter them, for example, via a user interface (to be described below) available on a customer-facing portal site 306. The portal site 308 typically is an extranet application that may be accessed using a web browser over the Internet or other computer network. Communications between the portal site and the purge server preferably occur over a secure and authenticated (e.g., SSL) link 310. The staging servers 302 process accepted purge requests. In particular, the staging servers preferably store purge requests to be requested by the content servers 304. The

content servers 304 are the CDN "edge" servers that actually deliver customer content to requesting end users. In the illustrative embodiment, a content server 304 is modified to facilitate the purge functionality as will be described in more detail below.

The purge server 300, which may be implemented in a redundant manner using a buddy server, is the main receiving and collection point for all purges. In operation, CDN customers log into the customer portal and enter purge requests to the purge server 300. In a preferred embodiment, the purge server 300 is responsible for receiving purge requests, validating the purge requests, issuing a purge identifier (ID) for each request, batching purge requests, and pushing them to the staging servers. A batch of purge requests is sometimes referred to herein as an aggregate purge request because it includes purge requests from multiple CDN customers. Preferably, the purge server 300 also regularly polls the content servers 304 to determine when purges are completed. Once a purge is complete, the purge server sends notification to the customer, e.g., by e-mail.

The staging servers 302 preferably are geographically distributed across the CDN and receive purge batches from the purge server 300. The staging server's role is to hold

purge requests for communication to the content servers. A given CDN content server may communicate with a given staging server, or a set of such servers. Preferably, the staging servers establish and manage all connections

5 between purge requests and the CDN. All communication between the staging servers and the content servers preferably occurs via secure and encrypted communication. Preferably, a staging server uses an HTTP server (e.g., Apache) to deliver the purge requests, and those requests

10 may be compressed prior to transmission. As will be described in more detail below, in a preferred embodiment, the content servers 304 periodically contact the staging servers to check for new or waiting purge requests. Once content servers receive a purge request, they remove the

15 content from their system.

In a preferred embodiment, a given content server may use the content delivery network itself to obtain the purge request. This reduces the load on the staging server components of the purge system. In addition, if content

20 servers (e.g., a set of servers within a CDN region) are sharing content, a given content server may share the purge request with other content servers, e.g., using ICP. An illustrative embodiment of this function is described below.

Figure 4 illustrates a simplified flowchart of a preferred purge process of the present invention.

Individual process steps are associated with the

components, namely, the portal, the purge server, the

5 staging server, or the content server, as the case may be.

As noted above, generally the purge server receives and

batches purge requests, while checking their validity.

Validated purges are then pushed to the staging servers

from which they are later pulled, in particular, by the

10 individual CDN content servers. The workflow of the purge

begins at step 400 when the customer (in this example) logs

into the purge application. As noted above, preferably,

the application is an extranet application accessible over

the Internet via a secure and authenticated (e.g., SSL)

15 connection. At step 402, a secure link is established

between the application and the purge server. At step 404,

the user enters content file identifiers targeted for

purging. In Akamai FreeFlow, for example, a content file

identifier is sometimes referred to as an ARL. At step

20 406, these ARL(s) are then sent to the purge server. The

process then continues at the purge server at step 408,

which checks the validity of the ARL. If valid, the

process continues at step 410 with the ARL being batched

with other ARLs for purging. If the ARL is invalid or the

purge otherwise fails, the process branches to step 412, wherein the purge server notifies the user of the failure.

At step 414, the ARLs of the accepted purges are sent, preferably in batch, to the staging servers for removal

5 from the system. At step 416, the ARLs are stored on the staging servers. The process then continues at each of the respective content servers. In particular, preferably, an ARL is removed from the CDN via an internal communication infrastructure whereby the CDN content server (or,

10 alternatively, a CDN on its behalf) regularly polls the staging server to check for purges. Thus, at step 418, a test is performed at a given content server to determine whether it is time to poll the staging server(s). A given content server may poll one or more such staging servers.

15 If the outcome of the test is negative, the routine cycles. If, however, the outcome of the test is positive, the content server polls the staging servers at step 420. A test is then executed at step 422 to determine whether there is content to be purged. If not, the routine ends.

20 If the outcome of the test at step 422 indicates that there is content to be purged, at step 424, the staging servers securely send the information to the polling content server. At step 426, each content server removes the

content, which results in the content being removed from the CDN.

Thus, in the preferred embodiment, the process of removing a piece of content from the CDN is a combination of both push and pull operations. Customers push the requested ARLs (or other content file identifiers) onto the purge server, where they are subsequently pushed to the staging servers. An individual CDN server then pulls the content to be removed from the staging servers. The pulling methodology allows individual servers to keep track of whether they have up-to-date information and to proactively update themselves. Because the purge mechanism preferably uses a pull operation for the last step, the CDN can have a high degree of confidence that content targeted for removal will actually be removed regardless of network conditions or server availability.

Preferably, access to the purge mechanism requires a username and password. Authorized customers obtain access to the purge mechanism, e.g., from a "Tools" section of the CDN customer portal. Once logged into the system, customers can only purge content that is associated with their username and password. Figure 5 illustrates a representative user interface dialog 500 for the purge tool. To enter a purge, the user preferably enters an e-

mail address for notification in field 502, together with the ARLs that are to be purged in field 504. The e-mail field 502, of course, is optional. If no e-mail address is given, then no notification of completion is sent.

- 5 Preferably, all purge e-mail notifications are archived. The ARL field 504 is where customers enter the ARL or group of ARLs to be purged. As used here, an ARL may refer to the origin server URL, to the origin server URL as modified or tagged by the CDN, or to any portion of the origin
- 10 server URL. Preferably, the customer enters one ARL per line. Alternatively, customers can point to a text file on their local machine containing a list of ARLs to be purged.

Once the e-mail address and ARLs are entered, the purge is not complete until the user selects the purge

15 button 506. When the purge button is selected, a purge request is sent to the purge server as previously described. The purge server checks that the username is authorized to purge the designated ARLs and returns a notification to the user. If accepted, the purge server

20 returns a message such as shown in Figure 6. As seen, the notification indicates that the purge has been accepted, and it includes an ID code (e.g., 782) for the purge, and an estimated time for completion (e.g., 480 seconds). The

notification also provides a summary of the ARLs to be purged and their status.

During the purge process, the mechanism preferably provides a series of notifications. Notifications may be sent when purges are accepted, rejected, and upon completion. Accepted and rejected notifications occur, for example, on the customer web portal. Completion notifications preferably are sent via e-mail to the designated e-mail address(es).

Because purging content is a sensitive content management action, the purge mechanism includes a number of security mechanisms. As noted above, customers must obtain a special username and password for accessing the purge tool. This username preferably is unique to each customer and determines from which domains they are authorized to purge objects. Customers will only be able to purge ARLs from these designated domains. As also described above, preferably all communication within the purge communication infrastructure occurs securely. This includes communication between the various components and communication with the customer.

Preferably, the purge server is designed to purge requests together and send them to the staging server(s) when it is determined that the system can process these

requests without degradation to the content delivery service being provided by the CDN. Once the requests are sent to the staging servers, the objects will be removed from the content delivery network. Typically, purges are
 5 completed within a short time period, e.g., every few minutes.

The following is a detailed description of an implementation of the purge mechanism of the present invention. Figure 7 illustrates the various processes
 10 described below.

1. Introduction

The purge system allows customers and system administrators the ability to evict stale content from all
 15 of the CDN content servers efficiently and reliably.

2. Terminology

- Purging (Web) Server 700: a web server where users can log in and submit a session request.
 20
- Session Request: a set of object names (such as CDN modified URLs or "ARLs") submitted by a user for purging.
 25
- Purge Batch: a set of object names to be purged grouped into one unit by the Purging Server. (A Session Request may be broken into multiple Purge Batches, and a Purge Batch may contain object names from different Session Requests). Batches preferably are used as a unit of publishing requests to the CDN although this is not a requirement of the invention.
 30
- Staging Server (stager) 702: a server that publishes purge information to the CDN.
 35

- ☐ Pending Purge Requests: purge requests that have not yet been made available (or published) to the content delivery network.

☐ Updater 704: The updater process runs on a content server machine 705 and is responsible for fetching published purged updates and purge instructions from a stager and purging its local content server accordingly.

- ☐ Purge Request Protocol: a protocol for communicating purge updates to content server. (Updater and content server communicate through this protocol)

3. Overview

The Purge System components comprise: purge GUI, Purge-Batcher 706, submit program 708, (file) Pusher 710, Staging Servers (stagers) 702, Updaters 704, content servers 705, User Notifier 712.

The following is the high level overview of the system.

1. The CDN extranet leads the users to the Purge Server 700.
2. The Purging Web Server GUI allows users to login and submit purge requests through the UI. Session Requests are submitted by the GUI to the Purge-Batcher 706 that runs on the Purge Server 700.
3. The Purge-Batcher 706 splits the list of object names into Purge Batches, assigns global purge sequence numbers to these batches and submits them for dissemination to all of the content servers. (Content servers use the sequence numbers to keep track of the latest purge batches that they processed and for purge data consistency.)
4. The Pusher 710 pushes the batch files out to the Staging Servers 702.
5. The Staging Server machines make the purge batches available for download for the rest of the CDN. Staging Servers are used to reduce the load that may be placed on the Web servers, and to increase their availability and network accessibility.

6. Updaters 704 sitting on all the content server machines 705 periodically fetch the Purge Batches by making requests to one of the Stagers 702 for the next sequence number, or for a directives file which contains the range of valid purge sequence numbers. Updaters purge their local content servers with these Purge Batches. To reduce the load on the Stagers, updaters preferably leverage the content delivery network to pull the purge data. Updaters and content servers can report their current purge sequence number to a monitoring system to help monitor purge progress.

7. User Notifier notifies customers when their Session Requests are completed, i.e., all reachable updaters report that the purge is complete.

4. GUI

The user interface allows clients to schedule a set of object names to be purged; this set of object names is called a session request. A user is given a unique request id. At a later time, notification may be sent to the user for the given id. Purge requests may also be submitted to the system via a programmatic interface which securely conveys purge requests to the Purge-batcher.

4.1. Inputs

- ☐ From User: On the initial screen this will be the username and password; on the purge screen either a list of object names or a filename of object names to upload. The GUI may maintain a list of default email notification addresses. Optionally, the user may change or add additional email addresses for a given notification.
- ☐ From the Purging Server: A list of access controls that will specify which objects can be purged by each user, and what priority is given to each user, and the maximum number of object names this user may have pending.
- ☐ From the Purge-Batcher: Errors from submission or assigned request ID and completion time estimate.

4.2. Outputs

Outputs to User:

- 5 ☐ Request Accepted Screen, including Request ID and an estimate of maximum time the purge should take.
- 10 ☐ Purging Service Not Available Screen.
- 10 ☐ Bad Purge Request Screen. (Too many pending object names, not authorized to purge these objects, badly formatted object names, etc.) A purge request with errors will not be scheduled; the errors should be fixed and then the request may be resubmitted.

15 Output to local disk: Log the session request that includes a list of object names, its request ID, and user email addresses to which user is to be notified.

20 Output to Purge-Batcher: A session request that includes a list of object names, customer name (for scheduling policy), maximum outstanding object names, priority of that user and user email addresses to which user is to be notified.

25 4.3. Normal Behavior

- 30 ☐ A customer connects to the Purging Server GUI via the extranet and supplies a list of object names to purge (enter a list, cut and paste a list, or provide a file containing object names). In addition, the GUI receives an access control list that includes, for example, content provider codes that the user is allowed to purge and the priority of that user.
- 35 ☐ The GUI contacts the Purge-Batcher using a secure, encrypted, and authenticated protocol, sends the session request, and receives a reply.
- 40 ☐ The Purge-Batcher checks the list of object names being submitted for correctness. If any of the object names do not validate returns "Bad Purge Request" screen with an object name that failed.
- 45 ☐ If the GUI receives a valid request ID, it logs the session request and returns request ID to the user. If not, the GUI generates an error page.

5 The GUI itself preferably comprises two sub-
components: a CGI script, servlet, or equivalent, and
a purge session request send program. The CGI script
will take the input from the user's form and from the
user's account information and format a session
request. The submission program will contact the
Purge-Batcher to send the purge session request, and
receive a session request ID and an estimate of the
10 maximum completion time of the purge. Once the Purge-
Batcher has assigned a session request ID and returned
it to the submission program, a copy of the session
request is written to disk on the GUI machine (by the
GUI) as a backup. The session request ID is returned
15 to the CGI script. If any object names are invalid,
the Purge-batcher cannot be contacted, or some other
error occurs, a descriptive error message is returned
to the CGI script, in the format described below. The
CGI script should then present the session request ID
20 along with a general description of the meaning of
this ID, or an error screen including the error
generated by the submission program.

4.3.1. Logging

25 The GUI logs for each session request: the status of the
request (whether the request was allowed and if so request
ID), list of object names, customer contact info, priority,
and any customer-specific information.

5. Overview of Purge Server Machine

30 The Purge server is responsible for collecting all purge
requests and, optionally, other requests, scheduling them
for dissemination to the content delivery network, and
making the necessary files available to the stager machines
35 for download by the updaters. These functions may, of
course, also be split among several distinct server
machines.

5.1. Inputs

40 Session requests from the GUI machines, purge files from
the user (if provided), and status information from the
stager machines.

5.2. Outputs

Encrypted purge files to the staging servers. Reports various status tables to query. Sends email to customers when purges complete.

5

5.3. Normal Behavior

To accomplish these functions, the purge server runs a variety of programs. The Purge-Batcher daemon receives "session requests" from the GUI machines and breaks them up into smaller "batches" which are handed off to a Submit process one at a time. The Submit process takes the batches, as well as any metadata files, and makes them available to the file pusher. The file pusher takes these files and makes them available to the stager machines. This machine also runs a User Notifier process that determines when purge session requests have been completed (using output from the Purge-Batcher and data gathered from the Updaters) and then sends email to the customer.

10

15

20

6. User Notifier Process

6.1. Inputs:

☐ From Purge-Batcher:

25

☐ Email addresses to notify when a given session request is complete.

30

☐ Which session requests a given purge batch completes, i.e., after that batch and all previous batches are purged, no object names from these session requests remain to be purged.

35

☐ From Content Servers: Which servers have completed which purge batches.

6.2. Outputs:

Notification emails to users.

6.3. Normal Behavior

40

Polls the content servers to find the greatest purge sequence number has been propagated to all of the content servers. Historical data may be kept for several minutes

and multiple redundant data sources may be consulted to improve data quality.

7. Purge Batcher

The Purge-Batcher is a process that may run on the same machine as the Pusher and is responsible for organizing customer session requests into Purge Batches and submitting the batch files together with a directives file to the system.

7.1. Inputs

- From the Purge Sender: Session requests. Note that the Purge-batcher has to handle multiple User Interfaces contacting Purge-Batcher simultaneously.

7.2. Outputs

- To Purge Sender: Replies with request ID and completion estimate on success or an error message on failure when a session request is submitted.
- To Pusher: Regularly submits purge batches files and the "directives file" to the Pusher. Old purge batches may eventually be deleted when it is known that all content servers have seen them.
- To User Notifier: Information about sessions and batches, as defined in the User Notifier section.

7.3. Normal Behavior

The Purge-Batcher receives session requests from the purge sender, as discussed previously. The Purge-Batcher checks the validity of all of the object names in the session request, tests whether they belong to the user submitting the purge request, and then makes the request available to the main Purge-Batcher scheduling algorithm.

The Purge-Batcher periodically creates purge batches from the pending session requests, attempting to distribute users' requests fairly, without forming batches that are too large.

Once a batch is completed it is submitted to the Pusher as a file with a sequence number as part of its name. (e.g. purgebatch27). The Purge-Batcher submits the new batches followed by the new "directives" file, which describes the range of valid existing batches, e.g., "10-1723" (see the Updater section below for more detail on directives).

A batch file is merely a text file that lists object names, along with any other information deemed necessary.

7.3.1. Logging

Once the submission occurs, Purge-Batcher logs the batch that is has scheduled.

7.3.2. Variants

The Purge-Batcher may be made redundant and fault-tolerant using a variety of techniques. One approach is to have each Purge-Batcher use an independent numbering sequence and have the updaters/content servers fetch from all of these sequences. A simpler approach is to use leader election and data replication among a set of Purge-Batchers to allow an automatic fail-over. This process can leverage the fact that once a batch is published to any stager or content server, it can never be changed, but it can be replaced by an empty batch, so long as any objects formerly listed in that batch are later rescheduled.

8. Pusher submission

The Purge-Batcher needs the ability to submit files to the Pusher. This may be accomplished by a stand-alone program that is executed by the Purge-Batcher, or by some other programmatic or network interface.

9. Pusher

The pusher is responsible for pushing scheduled files to all of the staggers intelligently, minimizing the amount of traffic and time (latency) that it takes to push new files.

9.1. Inputs

- New files to push.

9.2. Outputs

- To Stagers: encrypted packed files, an index file, and a heartbeat file.

5 9.3. Behavior

Pusher packs, encrypts, and signs all submitted files using a shared private key or public key cryptography and pushes them out to the stagers. It also pushes out an INDEX file that describes all the data files and a heartbeat file.

10 9.3.1. Logging

Pusher logs new submissions, new pushes of data, and stager unreachable messages.

9.3.2. Reporting

- 15 For purges, pusher reports the latest purge sequence number, the smallest purge sequence number, and the number of files missing in that range.

9.3.3. Variants

- 20 The Pusher can be made more fault-tolerant by allowing multiple Pushers to push to a single stager; as long as any Pusher is alive, the system will function.

10. Staging Server

10.1. Inputs

- 25 Index file, encrypted/packed files from the Pusher, heartbeat files.

10.2. Outputs

- 30 Encrypted files to its web server (e.g., an HTTP Apache server) for download by the updaters, and a stager index file, to be picked up by the Pusher.

10.3. Normal Behavior

- 35 Every few seconds reads the index file. If the index file is valid and contains new timestamps for one or more of the purge or metadata files, and if the MD5 checksums listed

for each file are correct, it places the new encrypted purge files on its web server for download by the updaters. The stager periodically reconstructs the stager index file. This file lists all of the files available for download from the stager together with their timestamps and sizes. This file is later checked by the pusher to see which files are missing. Every time a stager downloads gets a valid INDEX file, it will delete all files that are not listed in the INDEX file.

10 10.3.1. Logging

Logs when something new is staged, logs when heartbeat file has not been updated, e.g., because it cannot be reached by the Pusher.

10.3.2. Variants

15 The stagers may pull data from the Pusher instead of relying on the Pusher to push changes.

11. Updater

20 The Updater fetches the directives file and purge batches files from the stagers and makes them available to its content server.

11.1. Inputs

25 Encrypted/packed purge batch files and a directives file from a stager. Acknowledgments from content server on notifications.

11.2. Outputs

30 ☐ Decrypted and unpacked purge files and directives file.

☐ Notifications and purge requests to content server.

35 11.3. Normal Behavior

The purge functionality of an Updater can be modeled as two state machines: a regular fetch thread that fetches the directives file (as well as, optionally, other files), and a purge thread that fetches purge batch files and notifies a content server about them. For simplicity, only the

40

purging thread and the part of the fetch thread related to the directives file are discussed. All fetch wait timeouts preferably are randomized to keep them spread out in time.

11.3.1. Updater to Stager state machine: fetching and processing directives file

1. The fetching thread of the Updater wakes up and performs a query for the directives file (Idle→GET). If no new file exists or if the request fails, it goes back to idle (GET→Idle). This request may be an IMS (If-Modified-Since:) HTTP request, or may use some other protocol. This request may be made through a content delivery network.
2. If the thread is successful in getting the file, it tries to move the file atomically to its permanent location (GET→Move). It also broadcasts the contents of the file to other nearby Updaters. It then moves back to the Idle state regardless of success or failure but reports any failures (Move→Idle).
3. In the presence of a directives file broadcast, the system examines the broadcast purge sequence values against the ones it has stored locally. Broadcasts from unrecognized Updaters or from itself are ignored. If the broadcast represents newer information, the thread accepts the new values, creates a file and stores it in its permanent location. It also resets the timeout it uses to wakeup and check for the existence of a new directives file. This approach has the benefit of reducing the load to stagers as in most cases only one machine per group of nearby updaters needs to get the directives file.

11.3.2. Updater to content server state machine: fetching purge batch files and notifying content server

1. Updater starts in the idle state upon startup. It has a preconfigured timeout whose expiration forces it to communicate with the content server to ask for the last purge sequence number it has processed (Idle→Getting N).
2. If no answer is received, the updater goes back to the idle state and retries later (Getting N→Idle).

Otherwise, it saves the answer from content server (Getting N→Got N). It then proceeds to read the most recent directives file (Got N→Parse File).

- 5 3. If the file cannot be parsed, the Updater gives up and goes back to the idle state, possibly reporting its failure (Parse File→Idle). Otherwise, it moves on to check what action is mandated by the directives file (Parse File→Check Action), as defined below.
- 10 4. Action could be nothing (i.e., content server's sequence number is equal to the upper end of the directives range) (Check Action→Idle)
- 15 5. Action could be that content server is out of date (i.e., content server's sequence number is not in the directives range) (Check Action→Idle). In this case the Updater should raise an alert.
- 20 6. Action could be that content server needs to be purged (i.e., content server's sequence number is in the directives range, but is not equal to the Updater end) (Check Action → Fetch). The Updater will fetch the N+1 batch from the stager. If the Updater fails to fetch it, it will report and go back to idle
- 25 (Fetch→Idle). Otherwise, the Updater will try to allow content server to purge the batch and wait for an acknowledgement (FetchN recent→Wait ack). After getting an acknowledgment, Updater deletes the purge batch file from disk.
- 30 7. Waiting for an acknowledgement could result in success (Wait ack→Got N) or failure. In the latter case, the updater gives up and returns to the Idle state (Wait ack→Idle). Notice that if the updater fails repeatedly to purge content server, eventually the content server will fall out of date and the content server must be manually flushed.
- 35 8. The process repeats from step 3.
- 40 8. The process repeats from step 3.

11.3.3. Communication with content server

Updater may request that the content server purge a batch of objects and update its sequence number, that the content server return its current sequence number, or that the

content server forcibly set its sequence number to some value.

11.3.4. Logging

5 Updater logs result on fetching or getting a broadcast of the directives file. Results on notifying content server for a purge batch.

11.3.5. Reporting

10 Updater should report the most recently fetched version of the directives file, and the highest purge sequence number that its content server has processed.

12. Content server

12.1. Inputs

15 Purge batch files and sequence number queries from updater.

12.2. Outputs

20 Acks for notifications to Updater.

12.3. Normal Behavior

The following describes behavior in the content server as it pertains to purging.

12.3.1. Content server to Updater

- 25
1. The content server starts in Boot state and reads the persistent value of N upon booting. The content server also initializes the Purge History Table to this value. It then moves to the idle state (Boot→Idle).
 2. From the idle state, content server can transition as a result of any of three requests: a request for each value of N, a command to set N, and a command to purge a set of object names in a file.
- 35

3. If content server gets a request for N (Idle→Get N), it sends back the value of N it has in memory and moves back to the Idle state (Get N→Idle).

4. If content server is instructed to set N (Idle→Set N), it will attempt to write the new value to disk (Set N→Disk OK). If it succeeds, it will respond with "success" and move back to idle (Disk OK→Idle); otherwise, it will respond with "failure" and return to Idle (Disk OK →Idle).

5. If content server is instructed to purge a file, it will attempt to do the purge (Idle→Purge). If the purge sequence number is not greater than its own (e.g., by 1), content server will reject the request with a failure code. Before purging a particular object name, content server is responsible for updating the sequence number for that object name in the history table. Notice that content server is safe to update the in-memory copy of the sequence number before the purge is successful, as its only side-effect is to force the content server to get an even newer version of an object than it really needs. If content server fails to purge, it will respond with a failure code and go back to idle (Purge→Idle). If content server succeeds, it will also attempt to write the new value of N (should be old N+1) to disk (Purge→Inc N). Notice that this should be done only after the purge has been persistently committed. If content server fails to do so, it will send a failure response and move back to idle (Inc N→Idle); otherwise, it will send a success response and move back to idle (Inc N→Idle). Note that no object name in the batch, no matter how badly formatted, should prevent content server from incrementing N; content server may still return an error code, but it must increment N.

12.3.2. content server to content server

If content servers share any data amongst each other, they must be careful to ensure that a content server that has already processed a purge request does not receive a "stale" object from another content server which has not yet processed that purge request. A simple scheme is to require that the purge sequence number of the provider of the object include in its response its own purge sequence

number. The requester may then consider any object coming from a provider with a lower purge sequence number to be stale. In the middle of processing a purge, it may be that a given provider-requester pair will be unable to share data, even though the relevant data has not been purged. To address this, a history table may be provided or available to the requester to allow the requester to be more lenient in checking the sequence number returned by the provider.

To track which objects have been purged when, the content server preferably maintains the following structures, which are both memory- and time-efficient:

- `completed_seq_num` -- a sequence number

- `required_seq_num_table` (also called the "history table") -- an array of integers that acts like a hash table of object names to sequence numbers. (Note: a full hash table can of course be used, but is not necessary.)

Invariants may be as follows:

- All objects in this content server's cache have not been purged between when they were fetched from the origin server and `completed_seq_num`. In other words, this content server's cache is authoritative up through and including batch `completed_seq_num`; i.e., if the object has ever been purged (up through batch `completed_seq_num`) but is still in the server's cache, the object must have been fetched from the origin server (e.g., perhaps via another content server) after the most recent purge for the object (up through batch `completed_seq_num`) was scheduled.

- For any object name `x` (in cache or not), no purges of `x` occurred in batches greater than `required_seq_num_table[hash(x)]` but less than or equal to `completed_seq_num`.

On startup:

- `completed_seq_num` is read in from persistent state on startup.

- All the entries in the `required_seq_num_table` are then initialized to `completed_seq_num`.

completed_seq_num is updated persistently to N at some point after content server has finished processing all purge batches through the one numbered N. Note that the results of processing these batches must be persistent at that point.

completed_seq_num is included in responses to other content servers; it indicates that the data returned is guaranteed to be correct with respect to all purge batches through completed_seq_num (and perhaps later).

required_seq_num_table is similar to a hash table: a function is used to hash object names to entries in the table.

required_seq_num_table[i] represents the maximum purge batch sequence number in which a purge has been seen for an object whose object name hashes to i.

required_seq_num_table is updated whenever a purge for a single object is processed: if the object name for the object in the purge batch hashes to bucket i, required_seq_num_table[i] is set to N where N is the number of the purge batch being processed.

A constraint is the following: when content for an object name x is retrieved from another content server, the completed_seq_num returned along with the content must be at least as big as the receiving content server's required_seq_num_table[hash(x)], or else the content must be rejected as stale.

If content server is ever outdated (has completed_seq_num outside of the range of available purges in the directive file), or is behind (has not seen purges in many hours, days, etc.), this content server will have an older sequence number in its completed_seq_num than any content servers that are not in this situation have in their history tables, which implicitly turns off data sharing unless both content servers are also in the same situation. The use of history tables is optional, but desirable for improving performance.

The purge tool of the present invention provides numerous advantages. It provides CDN customers with an

effective means to remove content from the CDN as thoroughly and as quickly as possible. The architecture enables the removal of such content on an "as-needed" basis but without adversely impacting the performance of the CDN itself. It is also simple to use and manage. The tool may also be used by CDN administrators as required. In addition, content servers may take advantage of the content delivery network itself to obtain content (namely, purge requests) from staging servers to thereby reduce the load on such servers. The inventive purge architecture also includes means to prevent exchange of stale data between content servers that share files.

Representative purge server and staging servers are Pentium-based computers running the Linux operating system and Apache Web server. One or more of the processes described above are implemented as computer programs, namely, as a set of computer instructions, for performing the functionality described. Purge tool customers use any convenient computer platform having a compatible browser, a valid username and password pair, and Internet access to the CDN portal.

A variant to the above-described embodiment is to implement a design in which purges are pushed from the staging servers to the content servers, e.g., by having

each content server establish a persistent connection to
some staging server, which would push all new purges down
that connection. Another variant is to include one or more
additional levels of servers within the purge hierarchy if
5 needed.

Having thus described our invention, the following
sets forth what we now claim.

CLAIMS

1. A method for identifying and removing given content files from a set of content servers in a content delivery network, comprising:

5 identifying a set of one or more content files to be removed from the content delivery network;

pushing an aggregate purge request to each of a set of staging servers, each aggregate purge request including an identifier for each content file to be removed from the
10 content delivery network; and

periodically, having each of the set of content servers obtain the aggregate purge request from a given staging server, and

at each content server, purging from the content
15 server each content file identified in the aggregate purge request.

2. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the aggregate purge request is pushed to the each of the set of
20 staging servers over a secure link.

3. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the aggregate purge request is pulled from the given staging

server to each of the set of content servers over a secure link.

4. The method as described in Claim 1 further including the step of issuing a notification that each content file identified in the aggregate purge request has been purged from the content delivery network.

5. The method as described in Claim 1 further including the step of issuing a notification that each content file identified in the aggregate purge request has been accepted for purging.

6. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein the step of identifying the set of one or more content files to be removed from the content delivery network includes the step of verifying that a user requesting removal is authorized to purge the content files.

7. The method as described in Claim 6 wherein the user is a content delivery network customer.

8. The method as described in Claim 6 wherein the user is a content delivery network administrator.

9. A purge server for use in a content delivery network wherein third party content is cached on and served from a set of content servers in response to end user requests, comprising:

5 a processor; and

code executable by the processor for (a) receiving purge requests from a plurality of content provider customers, (b) for each purge request, validating a file identifier as being associated with a content file that may
 10 be purged from the content delivery network; (c) aggregating into a batch purge request a set of identifiers that have been validated; and (d) issuing the batch purge request to enable purging of the content files associated with the validated identifiers.

15

10. A staging server for use in a content delivery network wherein third party content is cached on and served from a set of content servers in response to end user requests, comprising:

5 a processor; and

code executable by the processor for (a) receiving a batch request identifying a set of content files that have been validated to be purged from the content delivery network; and (b) responsive to a poll received from a content server, serving the batch request to the content server to enable purging of the content files.

11. In a content delivery network wherein third party content is cached on and served from a set of content servers in response to end user requests, the improvement
5 comprising:

a purge mechanism for selectively identifying and removing given content files from the set of content servers, comprising:

a Web-based interface for identifying content
10 files to be purged from the content delivery network;

a purge server for receiving purge requests pushed from the Web-based interface, validating each purge request, batching a set of purge requests into an aggregate purge request;

15 a set of staging servers for receiving the aggregate purge request pushed from the purge server; and

code executing on a given content server for periodically polling a given staging server, for
20 pulling the aggregate purge request, and for removing the identified content files from the content server.

12. In the content delivery network as described in
Claim 11 wherein the given content server includes code for
inhibiting data sharing between the given content server
and another content server in the content delivery network
5 if a given purge request has already been processed.

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PURGING CONTENT
FROM A CONTENT DELIVERY NETWORK**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A content file purge mechanism for a content delivery
network (CDN) that hosts third party content files on a
network of geographically-dispersed content servers. A
Web-enabled portal preferably is used by CDN customers to
enter purge requests securely. A particular purge request
10 typically identifies a set of one or more content files to
be purged from the content delivery network. The purge
request is pushed over a secure link from the portal to a
purge server, which validates purge requests from multiple
CDN customers and batches the requests into an aggregate
15 purge request. The aggregate purge request is pushed over
a secure link from the purge server to a set of staging
servers throughout the content delivery network.
Periodically, CDN content servers poll the staging servers
to determine whether an aggregate purge request exists. If
20 so, the CDN content servers pull (or otherwise obtain) the
aggregate purge request over a secure link and process the
request to remove the identified content files from their
local storage. Throughout the purge process, notifications
are sent when purges are accepted, rejected, and upon
25 completion.

SECRET T 23520/00

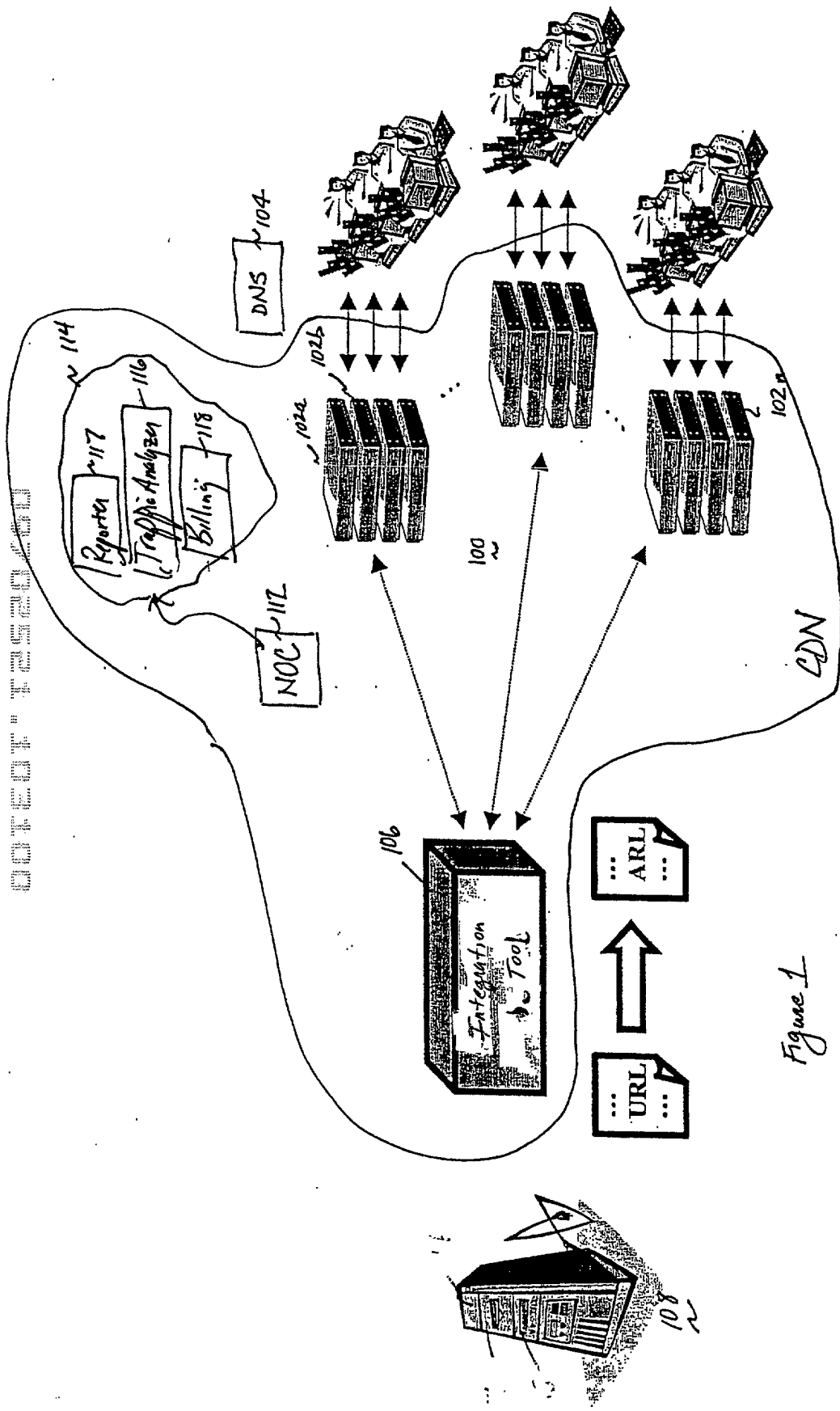


Figure 1

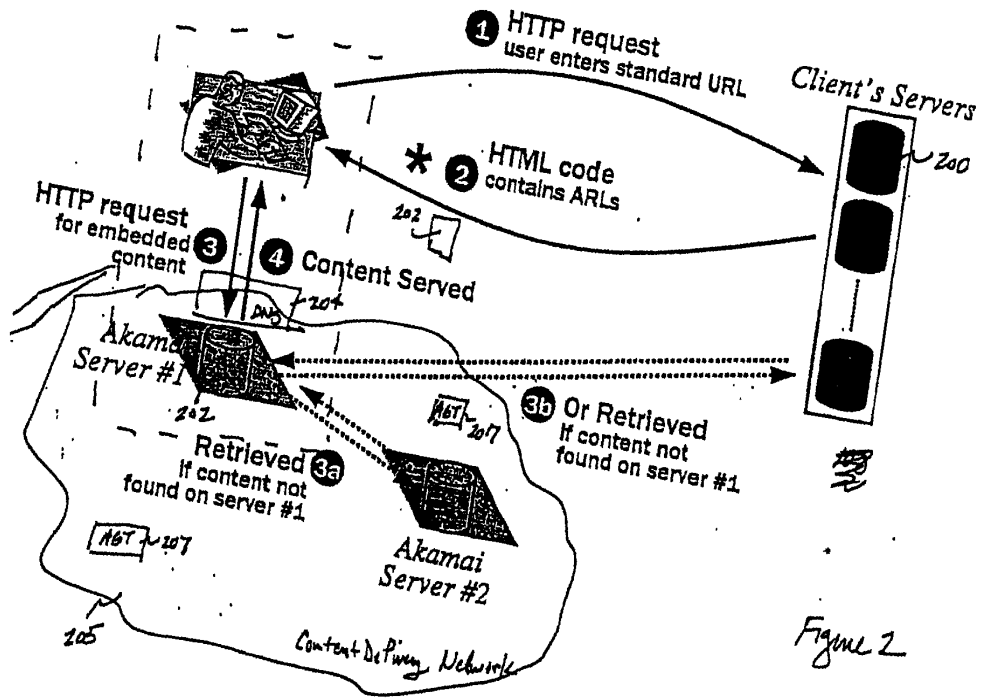


Figure 2

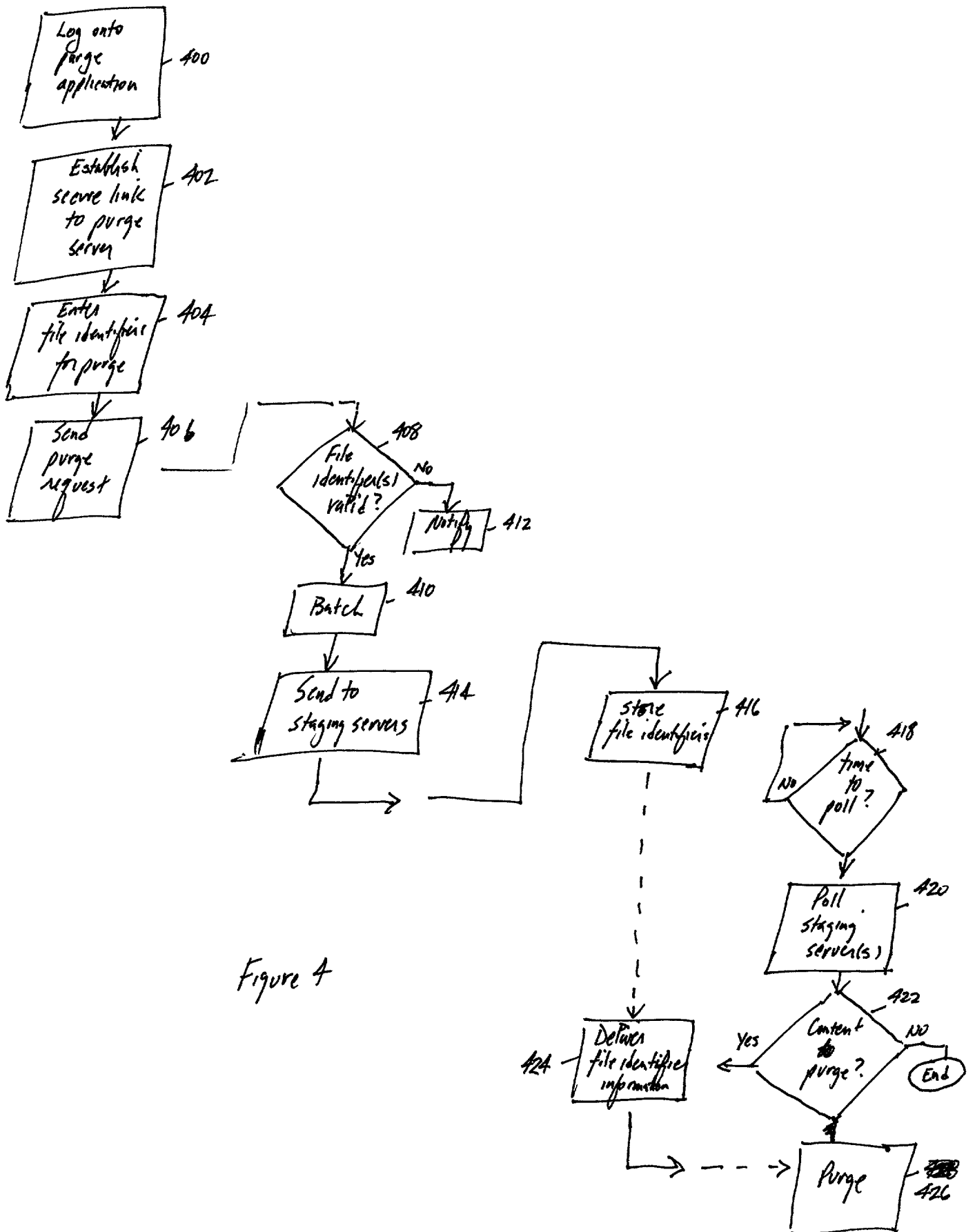
@ Purge App@ Purge Server@ Staging Server@ Content Server

Figure 4

Akamai ARL Purging Service

How to purge ARLs from all Akamai servers

Before you purge an ARL, be sure that you have already replaced the files you are about to purge with fresh content on your web server(s). The Akamai network will retrieve the fresh contents immediately after the old files are purged.

1. For e-mail notification upon completion of the purge process, type in the e-mail addresses where you want notification sent.
2. You can either type in a list of ARLs, or you can upload a file of ARLs to be purged. The file or list must contain one ARL per line.
 - For an ARL list, type in the complete ARL in the **ARLs to Purge** field.
 - For files, click **Browse**. Choose a filename on your local machine to upload.
3. Note: The maximum number of ARLs for each purge request is 100. The Purge Tool will automatically remove duplicate ARLs.
3. Click the **Purge** button. A confirmation page displays the ARLs you submitted, estimated completion time for your purge request, and a reference number to use when contacting Akamai about any questions or problems with your request.

Notification email addresses:

nobody@akamai.com

ARLs to purge:

http://foo.bar.com/xyz

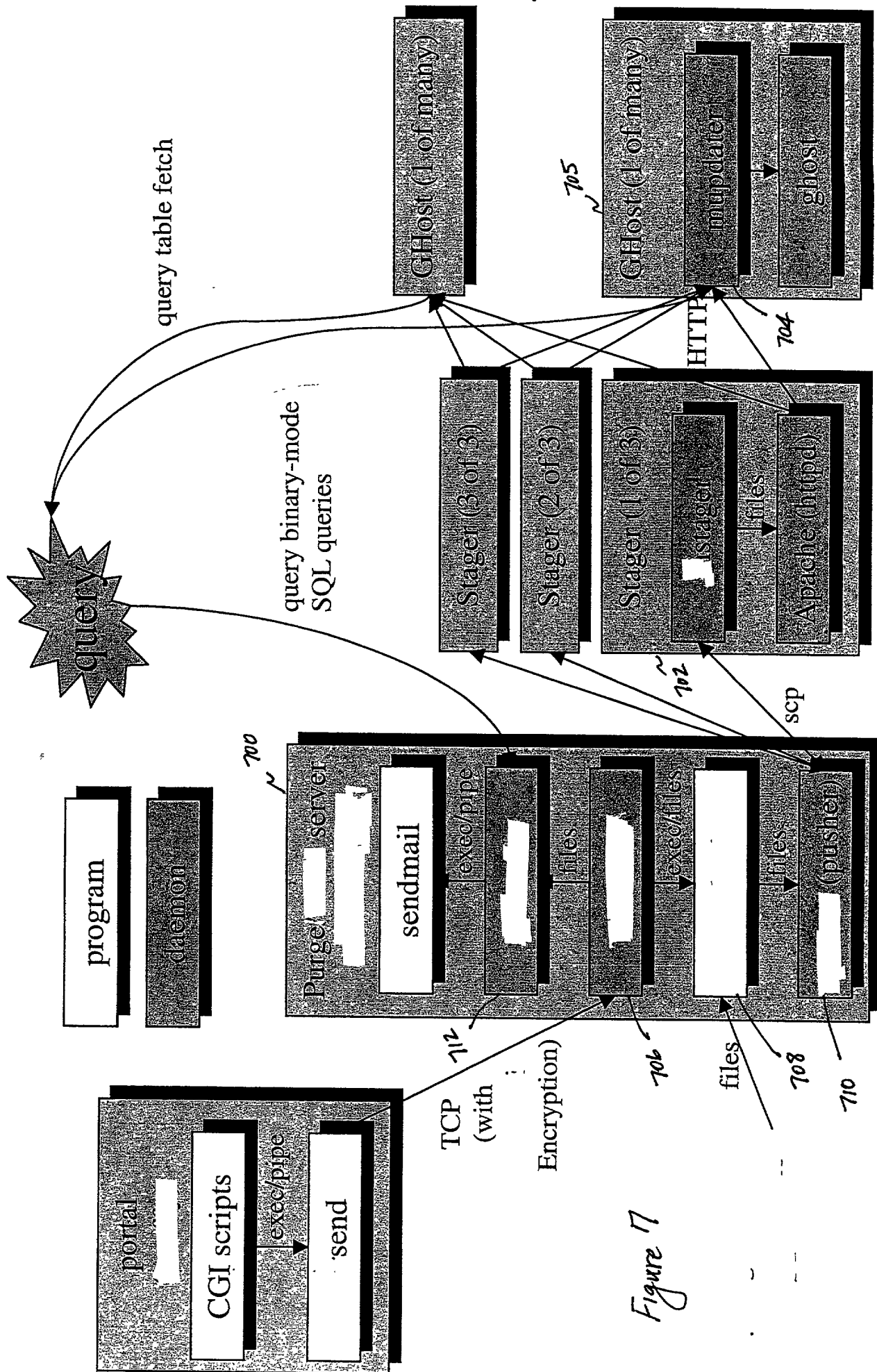
Browse...


Purge

Clear Form

Once you purge an ARL, Akamai servers no longer store it. Your server will receive the first subsequent request for that ARL. Akamai servers then receive subsequent requests for that ARL. Since the first request to your server is slower than service from an Akamai server, purge ARLs only when necessary.

Figure 5



Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → 

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DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR DESIGN PATENT APPLICATION (37 CFR 1.63) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing OR <input type="checkbox"/> Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)	Attorney Docket Number	
	First Named Inventor	<i>Sherman</i>
	COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
	Application Number	<i>/</i>
	Filing Date	<i>10/31/2000</i>
	Group Art Unit	
	Examiner Name	

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

Method and System For Purging Content From A Content Delivery Network

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

☒ is attached hereto
OR

☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached? YES NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

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DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

Direct all correspondence to: ☐ Customer Number or Bar Code Label ☒ Correspondence address below

Name *David H. Judson, Assistant General Counsel - Intellectual Property*

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR: ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name (first and middle [if any]) *Alexander* Family Name or Surname *Sherman*

Inventor's Signature *[Signature]* Date *10/30/00*

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NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR: ☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

Given Name (first and middle [if any]) *Philip A.* Family Name or Surname *Lisiecki*

Inventor's Signature *[Signature]* Date *10/30/00*

Residence: City *Quincy* State *MA* Country *USA* Citizenship *USA*

Mailing Address *150 Palmer Street*

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City *Quincy* State *MA* ZIP *02169* Country *USA*

☒ Additional inventors are being named on the 3 supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto.

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DECLARATION

ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)
Supplemental Sheet
Page 1 of 3

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:

☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

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Family Name or Surname

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Inventor's
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Joel Wein

Date

10/31/2000

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ZIP

Country

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DECLARATION**ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)**
Supplemental Sheet
Page 2 of 3

Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name	John		Family Name or Surname
Inventor's Signature		Date	
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Given Name	Family Name or Surname		
Inventor's Signature		Date	
Residence: City	State	Country	Citizenship
Mailing Address			
Mailing Address			
City	State	ZIP	Country
Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:		<input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor	
Given Name	Family Name or Surname		
Inventor's Signature		Date	
Residence: City	State	Country	Citizenship
Mailing Address			
Mailing Address			
City	State	ZIP	Country

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DECLARATION**ADDITIONAL INVENTOR(S)****Supplemental Sheet**Page 3 of 3**Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:**☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor**Given
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William E.

**Family Name
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Weihl

**Inventor's
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Name****Family Name
or Surname****Inventor's
Signature****Date****Residence: City****State****Country****Citizenship****Mailing Address****Mailing Address****City****State****ZIP****Country****Name of Additional Joint Inventor, if any:**☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor**Given
Name****Family Name
or Surname****Inventor's
Signature****Date****Residence: City****State****Country****Citizenship****Mailing Address****Mailing Address****City****State****ZIP****Country**

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